

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: PROPOSED GOI PROVISION OF HOUSING FOR DOD FAMILIES

REF: STATE 113795

1. PROPOSAL OF GOI-CONSTRUCTED HOUSING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES IS BARELY AN IDEA. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, DETAILS HAVE NOT BEEN WORKED OUT BY GENERAL AZHARI'S STAFF. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT COMMUNITY MAY INCLUDE OTHER FOREIGNERS (BRITISH AND GERMANS) WORKING WITH IIA. VERY PROBABLY IRANIAN OFFICERS WILL BE

HOUSED IN SAME COMPOUND, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL BE LOCATED IN SEPARATE ENCLAVE. THERE ARE THREE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES TO GENERAL AZHARI'S PROPOSAL:

A. SECURITY: SINCE HAWKINS MURDER, IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE URGED THAT MILITARY FAMILIES LOCATE IN CENTRALIZED AREAS WHICH WOULD BE EASIER TO POLICE THAN WIDELY SCATTERED QUARTERS. GIVEN RESTRICTED HOUSING MARKET, FAMILIES MUST TAKE QUARTERS WHERE THEY CAN FIND THEM.

B. ECONOMY: RENTS CONTINUE TO SOAR RESPONDING TO LOCAL INFLATION AND INFLUX OF FOREIGN EXPERTS. WE SEE NO EARLY LEVELING OFF.

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C. ADJUSTMENT: MORALE OF MOST NEWCOMERS WOULD BE

IMPROVED IF THEY COULD QUICKLY ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN A
CONGENIAL ENVIRONMENT.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF DEFENSE FIRMS
IN ISFAHAN, SHIRAZ AND PROBABLY BANDAR ABBAS WILL BE HOUSED
IN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES. IT WILL BE
UNFORTUNATE IF THESE AREAS AND TEHRAN MILITARY COMMUNITY
ARE LABELED QUOTE GHETTOS UNQUOTE, BUT THERE IS SIMPLY NO
CHEAP AND RAPID ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR HOUSING FAMILIES OF
EXPERTS AND ADVISORS. FURTHER, SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WILL
MINIMIZE THE OCCASION FOR FRICTION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
BY PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE ESSENTIALLY TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL
EXPERTISE AND WHO ARE NOT TRAINED OR NECESSARILY INTERESTED
IN DEVELOPING SOCIAL RELATIONS WITH LOCAL INHABITANTS.
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